

The Groundplane

The Monthly Newsletter of the South Bay Amateur Radio Association

October 2008

Volume 9 Issue 10

Bill, WB9YVM — Editor

Fremont, Ca.

President's Corner

As I write this, a group of intrepid SBARA members are beginning the long arduous trail of working the California QSO party under a different guise. They are known as the "East Bay Contest Group." This small band of contest enthusiasts have been put together by our very own Al, WT6K.

They are an informal group – though they are a legal contest club in the eyes of the FCC and the ARRL. In other words they are a distinct group from SBARA. Their goal is to have fun with contesting activities. In one way, they are the first of the SBARA special interest groups that we're talking about forming.

The basic idea is to organize the club into sub-groups that can pursue their specific interests, as well as being part of the greater whole. Some might ask whether this

might break up the club. The idea of splintering us into individual pursuits sounds a bit threatening. Really, we're looking for ways to become more active as a group. The board's thinking is that each of the special interest groups would take on the role of providing a theme for one meeting a year – and share their special interest with rest of the club. So whether you are a con-tester, a T-hunter, or rag-chewer you'll find something of interest at SBARA.

So come to our next meeting with some ideas about what special interest groups you would like to participate in. Help us grow SBARA by making it a lively organization that you want to participate in!

As usual, there will be pre-meeting dinner at Wok City beginning at 6pm. The full meeting will begin at 7:30pm and be held at Hurricane Electric on October 10, 2008.



Happy Halloween—BOO

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A CW Cot— Could it be Haunted?

In the 1950's and 1960's my mother's step-father became a ham radio (amateur radio) operator, using Morse code and later getting his license to "talk" to people all over the world. He had a little room for his "ham shack" and kept an old metal cot like an Army cot in the room because of his late hours, so he wouldn't disturb anyone else. After he died in 1969, my grandmother (his wife) got rid of all his radio equipment and turned the room into a guest bedroom, keeping the cot.

Every time I slept on the cot, I could hear the high pitched beeping of the radio code, although there were no more radios in the house. Later, others who slept there also heard the code. Years later I inherited the cot and moved to the country. My daughter slept on it for a while but the strange sounds of radio code kept her awake so we stored the cot away until recently. I got it out for my three year old grandson as we needed an extra bed.

I slept in my big bed in the same room where I had set up the cot for him. In the early morning hours I was awakened by the loud radio code. I went into the near by bathroom and could still hear it faintly. I went into the kitchen, removed from the bedroom, and could no longer hear it. So it wasn't in my head because it could only be heard in the bedroom where the cot was, not the other rooms of the house.

SBARA Elections — Would YOU Consider Becoming a Leader?

November is SBARA election month. Would you consider helping your club? Volunteer for a position.....

ELECTED POSITIONS

PRESIDENT

VICE PRESIDENT

TREASURE

SECRETARY

APPOINTED BOARD MEMBERS

WEBMASTER

EDITOR - PIO

CIRCULATION

MEMBERSHIP

RAFFLE COORDINATOR

QUARTERMASTER

PROGRAMS:

PHOTOGRAPHER

REFRESHMENTS

TECHNICAL ADVISOR

BOARD MEMBERS AT LARGE

2009 Leadership Team Nominations will be taken from the floor up to 10 minutes before the election at the SBARA meeting on November 14th, 2008

The SBARA Treasure Chest—October 2008

Dear Member,

this time you will find a very short report only. There was just too much on my plate this month. Including a strenuous hike on top of the Half Dome and some extensive/expensive repair on my old beloved Mercedes-Benz, partially carried out by myself. No, I used my own money, really! :-) I'm also planning a new homebrew project. *)

Expenses and income have pretty much settled for this year, I don't expect too many things until year's end, however there are fixed costs such as our insurance and a few other things open. Things went well. Very well: we received the check for SBARA's participation at the Zucchini Festival 2007, worth \$1,300.--, at our last meeting!

Our current account statement lists a balance of \$5,574.82.

We spent \$309.61 and received \$1467.00

since my last report (see GP 9/2008).

SBARA currently holds Certificates of Deposits over a total of \$3,636.81.

73!

Bernhard, AE6YN

*) For one of the next Groundplanes, I might come up with a description for a small standalone tracker box which is currently in planning stage. It features 5W 2m transmitter without receiver (built from a kit) and a Tiny Tracker 3+ (another kit). Only an antenna, a GPS mouse and 12V will connect to it. It should cost less than \$150 and could be left in the car. Or used for a balloon project. Or on a bicycle. Or...



PACIFICON 2008, The West Coast ham radio convention, will take place Friday, October 17th through Sunday, October 19th, 2008 at the San Ramon Marriott Hotel at 2600 Bishop Drive in San Ramon, California.

Have you purchased your tickets yet?

Go to <http://www.pacificon.org/> to register.

SBARA Forming Special Interest Groups — By Al Rendon, WT6K

What aspects of Amateur Radio are you interested in? Which facets of the hobby are you most knowledgeable and therefore able to share your knowledge with other SBARA members?

For 2009 the SBARA Board of Directors is planning to restructure the club around “Interest Groups” that will share the meeting time and even be encouraged to bring speakers to talk about topic in their interest group.

For example, if your passion is ARES/CERTS, you can form an Emergency Communications Interest Group and organize time at a membership meeting, even providing the speaker for the evening.

The areas of interest in our hobby are extensive and almost limitless. The board of directors brainstormed a list but by no means it all-inclusive.

Emergency Communications

T-Hunting
Satellite
Digital modes
Home Brewing
DX'ing
Contesting
VE Testing
Mentoring (Elmer)
CW

WHAT'S NEW?

And the list goes on.

Here is an opportunity to get in on the ground floor and have a ‘springboard’ within SBARA for you and others with similar interest to feature your amateur radio passion. So, get together and form a core interest group. You can do it by yourself or with another ham that shares the same passion. It doesn't need to be a big group to start. The board predicts that once you start talking about your interest at the meetings others will be joining you and

SBARA Dinner Location, Meeting Nights

There will be our traditional 6:00pm pre-meeting dinner located at:

Wok City Diner 46531 Mission Blvd. Fremont. Their phone number is **490-3344**

Before the Monthly meeting. Food is Chinese style mild to spicy hot. We always

have a crowd plus, lots of ham radio goodies are discussed that are not part of the normal SBARA monthly meeting!

We would invite you to Come and Join Us !!!

Latitude: 37.53306°N

Longitude: 121.91917°W

Questions to the International Space Station — You Bet You Can !!



Flying 220 miles above the Earth aboard the International Space Station, NASA astronaut Greg Chamitoff, KD5PKZ, is ready to take your questions. The public can now submit inquiries to Chamitoff and get answers direct from space on NASA's Web site.

To submit a question click the space station.

HAMTOON



ARRL Presents New Membership Benefit

With just a mouse click or two, ARRL members can now access the online [QST magazine archive](#). This new benefit -- a service of the ARRL Technical Information Service ([TIS](#)) -- provides PDF copies of all *QST* articles from December 1915 through December 2004, enabling members to view and print their favorite article, project and more. For many years, the TIS has provided members with assistance researching ARRL periodicals and publications, as well as providing members and non-members with article reprints for a small fee. Access to the new online digital *QST* archive is free for ARRL members

"Having access to every issue of *QST* through 2004 is absolutely incredible!" said ARRL Lab Manager Ed Hare, W1RFI. "The best of the best of *QST* from every era is now at the fingertips of every ARRL member with a keyboard and an Internet connection. Members can research articles on any subject that interests them, or just browse the past issues. This will be a popular membership benefit that will be

of special value to new and long-time hams alike. This valuable content will help radio amateurs who use *QST* as a technical resource -- for projects, equipment 'hints and kinks' -- and for other research contributing to the advancement of the radio art. We know many hams will simply enjoy perusing these pages of history, too."

The ARRL Periodicals Archive and Search lists every article for *QST* from 1915 to the present, *QEX* from 1981 to the present, *Ham Radio* from 1968 to 1990 and *NCJ* from 1973 to the present (please note that beginning in 1998, each issue of *QEX* covers two months). Only ARRL members will be able to download and print copies of the *QST* articles.

QST magazine is the official journal of ARRL, the national association for Amateur Radio. An interest in Amateur Radio is the only essential qualification of membership. ARRL membership is \$39 per year in the US. For a complete list of membership benefits and dues, please visit the ARRL Membership [Web page](#)



October Operating Events

October Operating Activities	CQWW DX Phone 25 – 26 Oct.
Oceania DX Contest, Phone 4 - 5 Oct.	Source: http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/contestcal.html
Oceania DX Contest, CW 11 – 12 Oct.	
ARRL EME Contest 18 – 19 Oct.	Halloween 31 October

SBARA CW Practice Group — Bernhard Hailer, AE6YN

SBARA CW Practice Group

Dear CW enthusiast (or prospective enthusiast),

There was an accident during preparation of the last Groundplane issue. Some information was mixed up and we listed incorrect dates and frequencies for our CW schedule. The correct data for our CW practicing is every:

Tuesday, 8 p.m.

Sunday, 4 p.m.

on

21.400 Mhz +/- 5 kHz

We will slow down for you, don't be scared away if somebody is really fast there! Just

send a „bk“ and your callsign, we will adjust to your skills. We will also be able to listen to and to send SSB, usually we do some short chat in SSB at the end of our practice rounds.

Looking forward to meet you on 15m!

Isaac, KI6DIL, Amanda, AF6YL, Al, WT6K and I would be happy to meet you, too!

Bernhard, AE6YN

ae6yn (at) arrl (dot) net

HRO Interested Parties — Product Demos & Sales Event

Ham Radio Outlet Sunnyvale ([Sunnyvale only](#)) is going to have a customer appreciation week to say thanks to all of our loyal customers. Mark your calendars, October 13 thru October 18. We will have special pricing and manufacture representatives from Heil, Yaesu, Kenwood, Maldol, Daiwa, Comet and more. Below is a tentative schedule for the week. We will also have refreshments each day.

Monday OCT 13th	Special sales pricing
Tuesday Oct 14th	D-Star expert Tim Barrett K6MDD 11:00-5:00 demo D-Star & Program radios
Wednesday Oct 15th	Dennis from YAESU to demo YAESU (VX-8R and FTDX9000D) and distribute goodies.
Thursday Oct 16th	Dennis from YAESU, Bob Heil from Heil Sound, Mick from Comet/Maldol/Daiwa
Friday Oct 17th	Mick from Comet/Maldol/Daiwa in AM
Saturday Oct 18	More of the good deals

Above schedule is tentative

ANAHEIM, CA
(Near Disneyland)
633 N. Euclid St., 92801
(714) 533-7373
(800) 854-6046
Janet, KL7MF, Mgr.
anaham@hamradio.com

BURBANK, CA
1525 W. Magnolia Blvd., 91506
(818) 842-1795
(800) 854-6046
Eric, K6EJC, Mgr.
Magnolia between
S. Victory & Buena Vista
burban@hamradio.com

OAKLAND, CA
2210 Livingston St., 94606
(510) 534-5757
(800) 854-6046
Mark, W17YN, Mgr.
I-880 at 23rd Ave. ramp
oakland@hamradio.com

SAN DIEGO, CA
5375 Kearny Villa Rd., 92123
(619) 580-4900
(800) 854-6046
Tom, K6MK, Mgr.
Hwy. 163 & Clearmont Mesa
san@hamradio.com

SUNNYVALE, CA
510 Lawrence Exp. #102, 94085
(408) 736-9496
(800) 854-6046
Dan, K6DN, Mgr.
So. from Hwy. 101
sunnyvale@hamradio.com

NEW CASTLE, DE
(Near Philadelphia)
1509 N. Dupont Hwy., 19720
(302) 322-7092
(800) 644-4476
Rick, K3TL, Mgr.
RT.13 1/4 mi. So. I-295
newcastle@hamradio.com

PORTLAND, OR
11705 S.W. Pacific Hwy.
97223
(503) 589-0555
(800) 854-6046
Leon, W7AD, Mgr.
Tigard-90W exit
from Hwy. 5 & 217
portland@hamradio.com

DENVER, CO
8400 E. 18th Ave., 80231
(303) 745-7373
(800) 444-9476
John, N5EHP, Mgr.
denver@hamradio.com

PHOENIX, AZ
1930 W. Denard Ave., 85021
(602) 242-2515
(800) 444-9476
Gary, N7GJ, Mgr.
1 mi. east of I-17
phoenix@hamradio.com

ATLANTA, GA
6071 Buford Hwy., 30340
(770) 253-0700
(800) 444-7927
Mark, KJ4V D, Mgr.
Doraville, 1 mi. no. of I-285
atlanta@hamradio.com

WOODBRIE, VA
(Near Washington D.C.)
14908 Bull America Cr., 22191
(703) 643-1063
(800) 444-4799
Steve, W4BHG, Mgr.
Exit 151, I-95, So. to US 1
woodbridge@hamradio.com

SALEM, NH
(Near Boston)
224 N. Broadway, 03079
(603) 899-3750
(800) 444-0047
Chuck, N1UC, Mgr.
sales@hamradio.com
Exit 1, I-93;
28 mi. No. of Boston
saalem@hamradio.com

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- Internal WIRES compatible

Great Price!



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2210 Livingston St., 94606
(510) 534-5757
(800) 854-6046
Mark, W17YN, Mgr.
I-880 at 23rd Ave. ramp
oakland@hamradio.com

SUNNYVALE, CA

510 Lawrence Exp. #102, 94085
(408) 736-9496
(800) 854-6046
Dan, K6DN, Mgr.
So. from Hwy. 101
sunnyvale@hamradio.com



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Low Pricing!



IC-756 PRO III All mode Transceiver

- 160-6M @ 100W • Enhanced Rx performance
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- Enhanced 5 inch color TFT w/spectrum scope
- Selectable IF filter shapes for SSB & CW
- Multiple DSP controlled AGC loops
- Advanced CW functions
- 101 alphanumeric memories

The Ultimate Radio!



DJ-196T 2WHT

- 5 Watt out
- 40 memories
- Alphanumeric display
- CTCSS + DCS built in
- "B" meter
- Auto Dialer

Low Pricing!



DR-135TP 2M mobile

- 50 Watt out • Alpha numeric display
- 100 mems • Built-in TNC 1200 & 9600 Baud
- Front Panel GPS In • Rear DB-25 port
- CTCSS/DCS Encode/Decode built in

Low Pricing!



FT-857D

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- 8 Band Parametric Mic EQ
- 8 IF roofing filters

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South Bay Amateur Radio
Association
Founded 1974
Mailing Address
Box 8401
Fremont, Ca. 94537-8401
Web Site — www.sbara.org

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DL4MHK

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Mike Studer, K6EEP

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Umesh Ghodke, K6VUG

Quartermaster

Jim Wood, KE6IVA

Program Facilitator

Al Rendon, WT6K

Refreshments

Open Position

Board Members at Large

Lloyd Hartshorn, N6DOK

Sam Severs, WS6S

Douglas Wilson, KG6RHG

Fremont Repeaters & Net Information

WA6PWW - 147.015 +600Khz, PL 103.5

WA6PWW - 223.900 -500Khz, PL 107.2

WA6PWW - 442.600 +5Mhz, PL 107.2

K6AIR - 146.940 -600Khz, PL 123.0

K6AIR - 441.525 +5Mhz, PL 123.0

ARES - Tuesday @ 7:30pm - 147.015 + PL 103.5

CW - Tuesday, 8 p.m. and Sunday, 4 p.m.
on 21.400 Mhz +/- 5 kHz

The South Bay Amateur Radio Association is a general interest amateur radio club serving the Fremont Tri-City area. The club has been in existence since 1974, and has functioned continuously ever since. We are an ARRL Special Service Club, a California not-for-profit tax exempt organization as specified in IRS Statutes. We sponsor training for

new hams, license examination sessions, and participate in various public service events. If you have a specialized amateur radio interest, chances are you can share it with one or more of our club members.

SBARA meets on the 2nd Friday of every month at Hurricane Electric in Fremont, California. The meeting begins at 7:30

PM. After conducting business, coffee and snacks are served while we socialize. Following the break, a program of interest will be presented. All persons interested in amateur radio are invited to attend. Families are welcome. We hope to see you there!

For those who would like to upgrade their licenses, here's an alternative testing opportunity. The Silicon Valley VE Group has scheduled regular test sessions every alternate Saturday morning at the HP facility in Cupertino. The ARRL site shows the following info for this Saturday, information:

Sponsor: SILICON VALLEY VE GROUP
Time: 8:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

Contact: MORRIS E JONES
(408)507-4698
Email: AD6ZH@ARRL.NET
<mailto:AD6ZH@ARRL.NET>
VEC: ARRL/VEC
<<http://wireless.fcc.gov/services/amateur/licensing/vecs.html>>
Location: HEWLETT PACKARD
19333 VALLCO PKWY
BLDG #2
TESTS START BETWEEN 8-10:30AM
MAP N37 19.490 W122 00.568

CUPERTINO, CA 95014

In addition, these sessions are planned every two weeks through at least the end of May (March 17, April 7, April 21...).



Club Classifieds
List your items
for sale or trade
here.

Let other club members know about the gear you wish to sell, trade, need, etc. Send your info to [Bill_Artelt, WB9YVM](mailto:Bill_Artelt@WB9YVM) before the 15th of each month to get it in the next month's newsletter.

Limit your classified to 25 words or less. Ham Radio, Computer, or electronic related items only please.

Listings are posted for 1 month, resubmit for additional months.

Listings are first-come-first-serve, limited to space available. We reserve the right to edit content.



Announcements

SBARA's monthly meeting is
October 10th. Starting at 7:30pm

Our meeting location is at Hurricane
Electric. The address in Fremont is:

760 Mission Court — Come to the
meeting and bring your HT !!

Talk-In 147.015Mhz. +600

**Come and join us for dinner at
Wok City Diner at 6PM**

The Ground Plane — KU6S
<http://www.sbara.org>
South Bay Amateur Radio Association — SBARA
P.O. Box 8401
Fremont, Ca. 94537-8401